

Introduced by Senator Lieu

February 18, 2011

An act to add Section 2270 to the Labor Code, relating to employment.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 912, as introduced, Lieu. Hotel housekeeping: labor and sanitary standards.

Existing law requires that all employers comply with specified standards relating to working conditions and sanitary facilities. Existing law further provides that local governmental bodies may adopt labor standards that are more stringent than those adopted by the state.

This bill would provide that a hotel housekeeping worker shall not be required to clean a hotel room in less than 40 minutes on average, and would establish other sanitary standards for the cleaning of hotel rooms. In addition, the bill would permit a city, county, or city and county to adopt specified ordinances establishing labor and sanitary standards for hotel housekeeping, including standards that are more protective of public health and hotel worker safety than the state standards established by this bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) In recent years, many hotel chains have increased the
- 4 workloads of their housekeeping staff, including one chain in

1 particular that now requires a single housekeeper to clean up to
2 30 rooms per day.

3 (b) Studies have shown that hotel rooms are often not cleaned
4 sufficiently to eliminate contagious germs left by prior occupants.

5 (c) Studies have shown that hotel housekeepers frequently suffer
6 painful and disabling injuries due to the amount and nature of their
7 work. While the injury rate for construction and manufacturing
8 workers is 4.3 recorded injuries per 100 full-time equivalent
9 workers, the average injury rate for hotel housekeepers is 7.6
10 recorded injuries per 100 full-time equivalent workers, with one
11 hotel chain in particular having a rate of 10.8 recorded injuries per
12 100 full-time equivalent workers.

13 (d) The Legislature hereby confirms existing law allowing local
14 government agencies to adopt regulations to address hotel
15 cleanliness and hotel housekeeping worker safety.

16 SEC. 2. Section 2270 is added to the Labor Code, to read:

17 2270. (a) A hotel housekeeping worker shall not be required
18 to clean a hotel room in less than 40 minutes on average. The
19 cleaning of a hotel room, after use by a hotel guest, shall include
20 changing the bed linens and washing or wiping with disinfectant
21 all doorknobs, bathroom handles, and remote control devices.

22 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a city, county,
23 or city and county may adopt ordinances establishing labor and
24 sanitary standards for hotel housekeeping, including standards that
25 are more protective of public health and hotel worker safety than
26 the standards established in subdivision (a). Ordinances adopted
27 pursuant to this subdivision may do all of the following:

28 (1) Require hotels to allow housekeeping workers a specified
29 minimum amount of time to clean each type of room or set a
30 maximum square footage or number of rooms assigned to a worker
31 to clean.

32 (2) Require a premium rate of pay and additional rest periods
33 if a housekeeping worker is required to clean more than a specified
34 amount.

35 (3) Allow for waiver of labor standards through a collective
36 bargaining agreement.

37 (4) Provide for regulatory fees to cover the costs of enforcement
38 of those ordinances.

1 (5) Contain any other provision deemed appropriate and
2 necessary by the city, county, or city and county to serve the
3 purposes of this section.

4 (c) Ordinances adopted by a county pursuant to subdivision (b)
5 may apply to hotels in an incorporated city within the county if
6 that city has not adopted ordinances that are more protective of
7 public health and hotel worker safety than the ordinances adopted
8 by the county.

9 SEC. 3. The provisions of this act are severable. If any
10 provision of this act or its application is held invalid, that invalidity
11 shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given
12 effect without the invalid provision or application.